



**FIRE**



**#1 FOREST  
ENEMY**

# THE FOREST FIRE PROBLEM

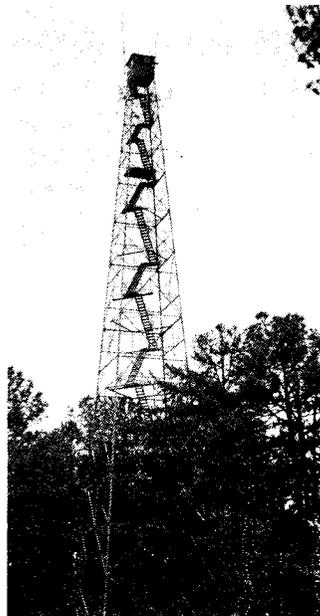
Wildfires in the past have generally occurred primarily in rural areas and put only the forest resource and fire fighters in jeopardy. Wildland/urban interface areas, however, contain high value structures and residents who are unfamiliar with the precautions necessary with brush fires. With more and more people moving from cities into these interface areas, the possibility of a potentially devastating and life threatening fire becomes a much larger issue.

**CAUSES** Approximately 95 percent of the wildfires that burn in Louisiana each year are set by people. Of this number, 79 percent are classed as arson which are fires intentionally set on someone else's land. These are set for a variety of reasons such as pest eradication (ticks, snakes, etc.), spite (a grudge against the landowner), livestock or game burning, or family tradition passed down from generation to generation. The other portion of this percent involve people burning their own land and unintentionally letting the fire get away.

**DETECTION** Detection in the four districts south of Alexandria is through the use of 44 fire towers, supplemented by four aircraft. Agency personnel inspect and maintain all aircraft to strict FAA standards. In the four districts north of Alexandria, detection is primarily handled by eight aircraft.

## FIRE FIGHTING METHODS AND EQUIPMENT

The Louisiana Office of Forestry is the only state agency with statewide fire-fighting capabilities. Today, the state protection system involves approximately 71 two-man crews equipped with trucks, tractor-plows and two-way radios. These crews are employed year-round and additional seasonal crew personnel are mobilized during fire season in high fire occurrence areas. Agency personnel maintain a statewide radio system of mobile, base and hand-held equipment which provides constant and instant communications, not only in forest fire detection but in Civil Defense communications as needed.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT FOREST FIRES.

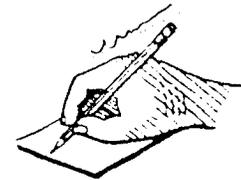
Help Stop The Arsonist



Put out small blaze



Notify authorities of your intentions to burn your lands that adjoin those of your neighbor.



Keep Brush Fires From Spreading



Wet your Campfire Ashes



Watch the Careless Smoker



**FORESTS & FIRES JUST DON'T MATCH**

## FOREST FIRES IN LOUISIANA

### FOREST FIRE BY CAUSES

10-YEAR AVERAGE (1986-1995)

<u>CAUSES</u>	<u>NUMBER FIRES</u>	<u>ACRES BURNED</u>
Arson	3,683	48,696
Brush burning	667	6,668
Miscellaneous	148	1,320
Machine use	35	319
Railroad	26	245
Smoking	14	87
Children	14	91
Lightning	12	83
Campers	13	96

WILDFIRES DESTROY  
TIMBER, WILDLIFE and  
RECREATION.  
THE LOUISIANA OFFICE  
OF FORESTRY IS  
EQUIPPED AND MANNED  
TO CHALLENGE FOREST  
FIRE WITH MODERN  
EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES  
AND METHODS.

You can help reduce wildfire destruction by being careful when you burn trash and debris or build campfires. Another way you can help is by reporting wildfires. *To report a wildfire*, call a number in the town nearest you. Here are a few important numbers:

#### STATE OFFICE OF FORESTRY

- Clinton ..... (504) 683-5862
- DeRidder ..... (318) 463-7801
- Hammond ..... (504) 543-4057
- Minden ..... (318) 371-3007  
Or (800) 242-3473
- Monroe ..... (318) 362-3141  
Or (800) 251-3473
- Natchitoches ..... (318) 357-3126  
Or (800) 245-3473
- Oberlin ..... (318) 639-4978
- Olla ..... (318) 495-5218  
Or (800) 253-3473

... Or call your local Sheriff's office

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All facilities, programs, and services of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry are available to all persons. Discrimination is prohibited and should be reported to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.

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